

Timeline: Early Republic

General Historical Events

Diplomatic Documents & Events

1787

May.: Constitutional Convention Convenes

Summer: Federalist Papers No. 4 & No. 64

Sept.: New Constitution Adopted

1789

April: George Washington becomes President

July: French Revolution begins

July: The French Revolution Begins
An Act Establishing a Department of Foreign Affairs

Sept.: Congress proposes a Bill of Rights

1790

Mar.: Jefferson arrives to serve as 1st Secretary of State

1791

Aug.: Haitian Revolution begins

1792

May: 1st Americans reach the Columbia River

Sept.: The Reign of Terror

1793

Feb.: Washington holds 1st Cabinet Meeting

Apr.: Washington Proclaims U.S. Neutrality

Sept.: More than 4,000 die of yellow fever in Philadelphia

Summer: The Pacificus/Helvidius Debate

1794

July: The Whiskey Rebellion begins

July: The Execution of Louis XVI

Various: The Neutrality Debate Newspaper Excerpts

Nov.: Jay's Treaty

1795

May.: Kingdom of Hawaii founded

Oct.: Pinckney's Treaty

1796

Apr.: Fisher Ames on the British Treaty

July: U.S. takes Possession of Detroit

Sept.: Washington's Farewell Address

Nov.: John Adams Elected President

1797

Apr.: British Invade Puerto Rico

Oct.: USS Constitution launched to patrol Barbary Coast

Oct.: Bribery in Paris

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1798

July.: Quasi-War with France Begins
U.S. Marine Corps Established

July: An Act Respecting Enemy Aliens

Aug.: Sedition Acts: Virginia Resolutions

Dec.: Sedition Acts: Kentucky Resolutions

1799

Apr.: Andrew Ellicott heads US-Spanish boundary survey

July: Russian-American Company founded

Nov.: Napoleon seizes control of the French government

Dec.: George Washington dies

Jan.: The Logan Act

1800

Oct.: Spain returns Louisiana to France

Sept.: Convention of 1800 ends the Quasi-War

1803

May: War begins between Britain and France

Apr.: Louisiana Purchase Treaty

Oct.: Jefferson's Third Message to Congress

Nov.: Louisiana Territory transferred to United States

1804

Jan.: Haiti wins Independence

May: Lewis & Clark Expedition Departs

1806

July: Pike Expedition explores the West

1807

Dec.: Embargo Act of 1807

1810

Sept.: Pacific Fur Co. founds trading town on Columbia River

Oct.: U.S. annexes Republic of West Florida

Aug.: Letter of the Duke of Cadore

1812

Feb.: Russia establishes a trading post in No. California

June: U.S. declares war on Great Britain

1813

Mar.: Mexican Republican Army defeats Spanish royalist forces

1814

May: Napoleon exiled to Elba

Aug.: British Burn Washington, D.C.

Nov.: Andrew Jackson seizes Pensacola, Florida

Dec.: The Treaty of Ghent